

State Commission on Juvenile Justice Meeting Minutes

September 25, 2008, 10:00am – 3:00pm
4241 Williamsborough Drive, Room 206
Sacramento, CA 95823

Commission Members in Attendance

Bernard Warner
Penelope Clarke
Don Meyer
Greg Ahern
Jim Salio
Javier Stauring
Kurt Kumli
David Steinhart
William Arroyo
Charlene Reid

Others in Attendance

Daniel Hancock
Chris Murray
Karen Hennigan
Eleanor Silva
Jermica Peters
Suzie Cohen
Books Not Bars Members
Youth Justice Coalition Members

The meeting was facilitated by Penelope Clarke, Tri-Chair. Ms. Clarke called the meeting to order, and roll was called to establish a quorum.

Meeting Minutes of July 24, 2008

The minutes from the July meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to adopt the minutes. Ms. Clarke called for all those in favor of the proposed motion. All members were in favor. The motion was adopted.

Future Meeting Dates and Locations

The members discussed holding a future meeting in Southern California to better accommodate stakeholders and the public. Members made suggestions and discussed possible locations for the November and December meetings. Due to the approaching deadline of the Master Plan and the logistics holding a meeting in Southern California, the members agreed to have the next meeting in Sacramento from 9am to 5pm.

SB81 / AB191 Implementation Update

Eleanor Silva, Intake and Court Services

Eleanor provided the most recent data on the non-707(b) population within DJJ Facilities and on DJJ Parole and their anticipated release dates. She also gave an update on the number of youth that have been released from DJJ since September 2007, and the method of release.

Juvenile Justice Master Plan

Chris Murray, Christopher Murray and Associates

Karen Hennigan, Christopher Murray and Associates/Center for Research on Crime, University of Southern California

Mr. Murray gave a presentation on universal data collection elements for Juvenile Justice using the Balance and Restorative Justice (BARJ) Model. This model provides the framework for understanding the types of data needed for juvenile justice purposes. The principles of BARJ are: Community Protection, Accountability, and Competency Development. These principles are consistent with the goals and guiding principles of the Juvenile Justice Operational Master Plan.

The details of each principle were reviewed and discussed. Chris reviewed the data that is currently available in each area and made recommendations about data that should be captured in the future to ensure commonality within the state. The preliminary list of common data elements was also reviewed and discussed.

The following recommendations were made for inclusion in the Master Plan:

- Definition of outcome measures
- Comparing outcome measures throughout the state
- Factors to compare
- Inter-rater reliability
- Confidentiality of information - common identifiers to look at juvenile records without identifying the name (encryption systems)
- Victim Restoration role

Ms. Hennigan provided the preliminary findings of the County Survey that was distributed to each county to identify programs and services, risk and needs assessments tools and other information to provide the Commission with an overview of what is happening at the county level. Fifty-three of the fifty-eight counties responded to the survey.

State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Update

Sandra McBrayer

The State Advisory Committee continues to work on the Strategic Action Plan and have come up with common themes and trends. They also have representation on the Correction Standards Authority Executive Committee to look at Detention profile surveys. They are also looking at the DMC in five counties (Santa Clara, Alameda, Los Angeles, San Diego and Contra Costa. Ongoing training on juvenile justice issues to ensure that the Committee is updated on current best-practices, evidence-based practices and to assure that the data is accurate, valid and reliable to evaluate programs.

Books Not Bars

Sumayyah Waheed, Policy Director

Revonda Watkins, Member

Ms. Waheed discussed Books Not Bars' endorsement of the Little Hoover Commission Report. The organization is campaigning to replace DJJ with effective alternatives at the local and regional levels. She shared the experiences of incarcerated youth and their families and discussed why the organization thinks the Commission should support the recommendations made in the Little Hoover Commission Report in the Juvenile Justice Master Plan.

Ms. Watkins is the parent of a youth that was incarcerated in DJJ for 4 years. She shared her opinion about DJJ programs and services and her son's experience after release.

Public Testimony

Public comments regarding recommendations made in the Little Hoover Commission report titled *Juvenile Justice Reform: Realigning Responsibilities* were heard from the following people representing Books Not Bars:

Marcyelle Wheaton, Former Incarcerated Youth

Ruben Joe Mesta, Former Incarcerated Youth

Allen Feaster, Parent of Former Incarcerated Youth

Susan Brown, Godmother of Former Incarcerated Youth

Cecilia Hendon, Parent of Former Incarcerated Youth

Kim McGill, Organizer - Youth Justice Coalition

Diego Luna, Former Incarcerated Youth

"Froggie"-Youth Justice Coalition

Ruth John Whitmore – Grandmother of Former Incarcerated Youth

Little Hoover Commission

Daniel Hancock, Chairman

The Little Hoover Commission (LCH) has worked on the topic of juvenile justice over the last 15 years and issued reports in 1994 and 2001. Since the reorganization of The Department of Corrections in 2005, LCH has monitored the operations of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and issued a report in July titled *Juvenile Justice Reform: Realigning Responsibilities*. Mr. Hancock explained the three findings that were concluded in the report. The findings were based on:

- the structure of DJJ and the placement of DJJ within the Department of Corrections;
- the funding structure for juvenile justice
- realigning responsibilities at state level

Closing Remarks

All Commission members agreed to hold the next meeting on October 23, 2008, at the Division of Juvenile Justice Headquarters, Room 206, in Sacramento. The facilitator of the next meeting will be Tri-chair, Don Meyer. Suggested topics for the next meeting include: a review of draft chapters of the Juvenile Justice Operational Master Plan, a discussion about key stakeholder involvement, discussion about the timeline and workplan, information regarding Direct File cases, an update on the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and an SB81/AB191 Implementation update.